

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SR-02 ORM-01

IO-10 AID-05 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-03 L-02 EB-07 DPW-01

H-02 /087 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:LPETERS:EB

APPROVED BY EA:PCHABIB

EUR:RVINE

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O 282323Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 071355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMER PINT VS

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

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FOR AMBASSADOR

REF: SAIGON 3392

1. SUMMARY. ARE INSTRUCTED TO SEEK IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO CONVEY FOLLOWING MESSAGE AND, IN LIGHT OF INSTRUCTIONS BELOW, TO SEEK HOST GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN EVACUATING REFUGEES FROM NORTHERN RVN. END SUMMARY

2. BACKGROUND: SINCE MARCH 4 COMMUNIST FORCES HAVE LAUNCHED A MAJOR OFFENSIVE WHICH HAS FORCED GVN TO WITHDRAW FROM A NUMBER OF PROVINCES IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE COUNTRY. OUR BEST ESTIMATE IS THAT AT LEAST 900,000 REFUGEES ARE FLEEING AS THE GVN WITHDRAWS FROM THE NORTH AND CENTRAL PROVINCES OF VIET-NAM. THE TOTAL COULD BE AS MUCH AS 1.5 MILLION OR MORE. THE MAJOR CONCENTRATION OF REFUGEES IS THE 600,000 OR MORE WHO HAVE GATHERED IN DANANG, SWELLING THE POPULATION OF THE CITY TO APPROXIMATELY 1,000,000. LAND EGRESS IS CUT OFF. THE GVN HAS REQUESTED OUR HELP AND THE HELP OF OTHER NATIONS IN STAGING A MASSIVE EVACUATION FROM DANANG BY AIR AND SEA. WE ARE BOTH PARTICIPATING IN THE EVACUATION AND SUPPORTING THE GVN'S REQUEST FOR HELP.

2. YOU SHOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE:

"I HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONSULT WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON A MATTER OF THE UTMOST URGENCY.

"YOU ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE THAT BEGINNING ON MARCH 4 NORTH VIETNAMESE FORCES LAUNCHED A MASSIVE ATTACK AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM. SEVENTEEN NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY DIVISIONS, INCLUDING THREE DIVISIONS NEWLY INTRODUCED INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM, HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE ATTACK, WHICH HAS FORCED THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM TO ABANDON TWELVE PROVINCES IN THE NORTH AND CENTRAL REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE FLED THEIR HOMES SEEKING REFUGE FROM THE ADVANCING COMMUNIST ARMIES.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM HAS REQUESTED  
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HELP IN STAGING A MASSIVE EVACUATION OF THE CITY OF DANANG BY AIR AND BY SEA. THE CITY OF DANANG, WHICH NORMALLY HAS A POPULATION OF ABOUT 400,000, IS NOW SWOLLEN TO ONE MILLION OR MORE PEOPLE. THEIR PLIGHT IS DESPARATE; THE RESOURCES OF THE CITY ARE STRAINED BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION; AND THE HUMAN SUFFERING THAT WOULD RESULT FROM MAJOR MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS IN SUCH AN OVERCROWDED CITY IS IMPOSSIBLE TO TOLERATE.

"THE UNITED STATES IS RESPONDING TO THE GVN'S REQUEST AND PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR THE EVACUATION AND CARE OF REFUGEES AND HOPES THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL JOIN IN THIS HUMANITARIAN EFFORT."

4. YOU SHOULD SEEK AGREEMENT FROM HOST GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE AIR OR SEA TRANSPORT ASSETS ON IMMEDIATE RPT IMMEDIATE BASIS FOR USE IN DANANG-CAM RANH OR DANANG-SAIGON SHUTTLE. WHETHER THESE ARE CARGO OR PASSENGER CRAFT, OR CIVILIAN OR MILITARY CRAFT, IS IMMATERIAL. YOU SHOULD STRESS ENTIRELY HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF UNDERTAKING; THAT EVACUEES ARE CIVILIANS WHO HAVE FLED OF THEIR OWN ACCORD, SUBJECT TO GRAVE RISKS AND TO LOSS OF MOST OR ALL POSSESSIONS; THAT TIME IS CRITICALLY RPT CRITICALLY SHORT.

5. YOU CAN INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT THAT FOR ITS PART THE USG IS MARSHALLING ALL AVAILABLE AIR AND SEA

CAPABILITY, INCLUDING THIRD COUNTRY VESSELS, THAT CAN BE ASSEMBLED. WE ARE DEPENDING ON RVNAF FOR GROUND CONTROL.

6. YOU SHOULD INDICATE AS APPROPRIATE THAT PARTICIPATION WOULD BE AT HOST GOVERNMENT'S EXPENSE. WE DO NOT RPT NOT WISH TO GET INTO LENGTHY NEGOTIATION OVER QUID PRO QUOS, INDEMNIFICATIONS, ETC., PARTICULARLY AT A MOMENT WHEN TIME IS SO SHORT. YOU SHOULD INDICATE AS NECESSARY THAT THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF RISK INVOLVED, BUT THAT WE WILL BE TAKING EXTREME CAUTION TO AVOID LOSS OF LIFE AND CRAFT.

7. FOR TAIPEI AND SEOUL: YOU SHOULD INFORM GROC AND ROKG AS APPROPRIATE OF THIS GENERAL EFFORT TO OBTAIN EVACUATION TRANSPORTATION. THIS MESSAGE MAY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPETUS IF ARRANGEMENTS NOW UNDER DISCUSSION APPEAR TO BE BOGGING DOWN.

8. FOR TOKYO: WE WOULD HOPE GOJ COULD MAKE SPECIAL EFFORT TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THEIR CONSIDERABLE INVENTORY OF COMMERICAL AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS.

9. FOR JAKARTA: RECOGNIZE INDONESIAN PARTICIPATION IN ICCS HAS BEEN HEAVY BURDEN ON GOI AND THAT ITS ICCS ROLE MIGHT MAKE IT FEEL IN AN AWKWARD POSITION VIS-A-VIS PARTICIPATION IN AN AIR OR SEA LIFT. HOWEVER, WE ARE CONFIDENT GOI WILL SEE PURELY HUMANITARIAN NATURE OF THIS MSSION AND AGREE TO HELP.

10. FOR MANILA: YOU SHOULD EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR

GOP'S LOAN OF AN LST, AND SHOULD USE THIS MESSAGE AS BASIS  
TO REQUEST FURTHER HELP.

11. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD NOTE THE PROBABLE PRESENCE OF  
LARGE NUMBERS OF UK FLAG VESSELS IN THE EAST ASIA AREA  
WHICH MIGHT BE DIRECTED TO DANANG.

12. FOR PARIS AND BONN: YOU SHOULD SIMILARLY NOTE  
PROBABLE PRESENCE OF HOST COUNTRY FLAG VESSELS IN AREA  
WHICH COULD BE DEVOTED TO THIS EFFORT. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Concepts:** REFUGEE RELIEF, EMERGENCY EVACUATION  
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**Draft Date:** 28 MAR 1975  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**To:** BANGKOK MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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